THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : <u>PATENT</u>

Ian Trevor DAMPNEY et al. : Confirmation No. 6516

Serial No.: 09/890,581 : Docket No. 000026-00030

Filed: March 8, 2002 : Customer No. 27557

For: ACTUATING AND LOCKING : Art Unit: 3731

MECHANISM FOR A SURGICAL :

TOOL : Examiner: Nguyen, VI X.

<u>AMENDMENT</u>

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the December 6, 2004 Office Action, please amend the above-identified application, as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.

Appendix: Abstract of the Disclosure